


NRO 25X1

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

 0230-83  
2 December 1963  
Copy 8

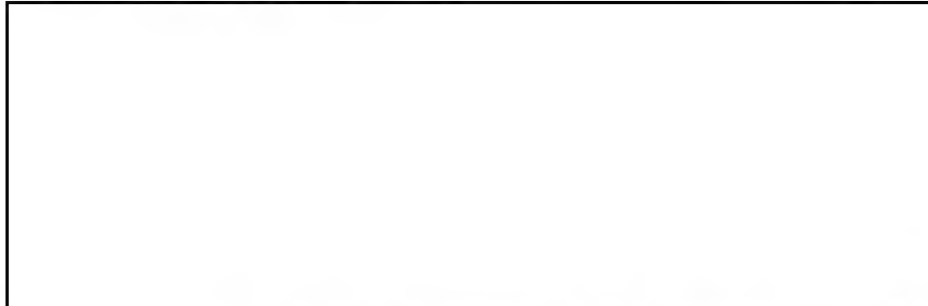
**NOTES FOR BRIEFING OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON  
ON SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE**

We now have  satellite photography  
for intelligence purposes.

25X1D


a. Search of very large areas for new  
installations. This coverage is supplied by  
the CORONA satellite, which has been primarily  
a CIA development.

NRO 25X1



NRO

25X1


 launched south from Vandenberg AFB  
into polar orbits. Their pictures are taken from an  
altitude of about 100 miles over targets in the  
Soviet Union and elsewhere when required. The  
satellites stay in orbit about four days and the film  
is recovered in special reentry vehicles by aircraft  
near Hawaii.

NRO 25X1

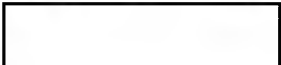
-0330-63  
Page 2

NRO 25X1

25X1 NRO


The CORONA/Search satellite first returned film from orbit in August 1960, and has performed successfully 29 times since then out of 44 attempts. It is launched from a THOR-AGENA at a total cost of about  per shot. The CORONA can cover three million square miles per mission in stereo. Here is the typical coverage for one of these flights.

(Mission Coverage Chart for 9057)

CORONA provides this coverage by moving a two hundred mile wide strip below its trajectory, 

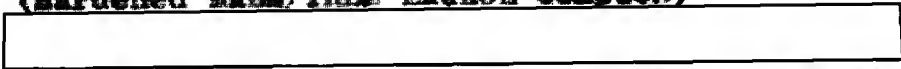
25X1D

25X1D




We are able to blow these film strips up to 40-60 times their original size and produce photographs of ICHM sites and other critical targets which are truly remarkable. The quality of photographs that we get is especially highly classified.

(Hardened WREB/IRBM Launch Complex)



This type of photography provides a major source of raw intelligence data and is one of the most important

25X1D

 0230-63  
Page 3

NRO 25X1

inputs for our national estimates of Soviet strategic capabilities. So far, we have covered over 100 million square miles of the earth's surface. 95% of the USSR has been filmed to date. In this year alone, we have covered 65% of the USSR and 45% of China. From this photographic coverage we have identified some 18 ICBM Complexes in the USSR containing more than 220 ICBM pads. Over 700 IRBM/MRBM positions and more than 1100 surface-to-air missile sites have also been located and reported.

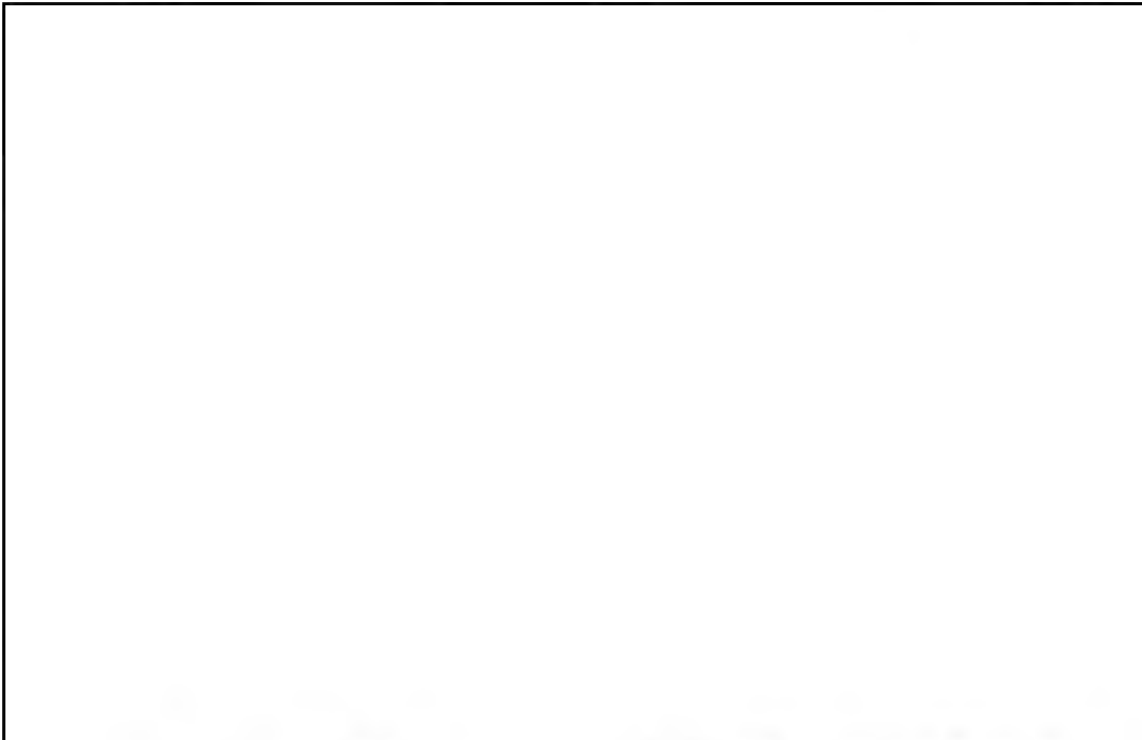
We are now looking at ways to improve the present system further and to invent a successor with greatly improved capabilities. In the meantime, we have constructed the National Reconnaissance Plan so as to provide one CORONA/Search flight each month indefinitely.


NRO 25X1

NRO 25X1

 0230-63  
PAGE 4

25X1<sup>NRO</sup>



As the CORONA  missions are recovered,  
I will bring you especially important examples of  
this photography to discuss in conjunction with our  
regular intelligence meetings.

25X1A

Distribution:

- #1 & 2 - DCI
- #3 - DDCI
- #4 - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~NR12  
Executive Director
- #5 - Director, NPIC
- #6 - Wheelon chrono
- #7 & 8 - DD/S&T files
- #9 - DD/S&T